

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To improve the Office of Refugee Resettlement shelter grant process.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To improve the Office of Refugee Resettlement shelter grant
process.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Shelters Act of
5 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SHELTER**
7 **GRANT PROCESS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ADVERSE ACTION.—The term “adverse ac-
10 tion” means an adverse criminal or regulatory action

1 taken by the Federal Government or a State or local
2 government with respect to contracting with a gov-
3 ernment entity or to the care of children, includ-
4 ing—

5 (A) the suspension or revocation of an op-
6 erating license; and

7 (B) any ongoing or pending investigation
8 by the Federal Government or a State or local
9 government.

10 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

12 (3) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term
13 “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given
14 the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security
15 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

16 (b) DISCLOSURE AND LICENSURE.—With respect to
17 Office of Refugee Resettlement grants to open or fund
18 shelter facilities for unaccompanied alien children, the
19 Secretary shall require each applicant—

20 (1) to disclose in the grant application any ad-
21 verse action taken against the applicant during the
22 5-year period immediately preceding the date on
23 which the application is submitted; and

24 (2) to be licensed to operate such a facility in
25 the applicable State as of such date.

1 (c) INFORMATION SHARING.—In considering an ap-
2 plication for a grant referred to in subsection (b), the Sec-
3 retary shall seek to collaborate with the appropriate regu-
4 latory agencies of the State in which the applicant intends
5 to operate to conduct a review of State databases for infor-
6 mation on adverse actions taken against the applicant.